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PHONE: 1687.

## WAR CHARITIES.

## SUBSCRIPTION LIST (NO. 17).

## General

Bishop of Victoria and Mrs.

Lander £5 at 2/6 T.T. ...

Collected from the boxes at

Blake Pier, Lower Peak

Tram Station and Star

Ferry Pier ...

Hongkong Club, one-third proceeds

of Villiers' Lecture ...

Victoria British School ...

Taikoo Office Staff ...

L. N. L. ...

S. G. Newall ...

Ojager Singh ...

Staff A. S. Watson &amp; Co., Ltd.

Police ...

W. Izard Pedersen ...

Vald Bjerre ...

H. Owen Carstensen ...

Pentreath &amp; Co. ...

C. B. Brooke ...

Union Church Ladies' Work-

ing Party ...

Staff, Lane, Crawford &amp; Co.

Hon. Mr. Claud Severn ...

Britishers ...

Wong Sin Woon ...

Golan Hosain ...

Interest on London Account to

30.3.17, £21 14/8 at 2/4 ...

H.E. Sir Henry May ...

C. Thorne ...

Interest on Hongkong Account to

30.6.17 ...

Hongkong Gynkhana Club ...

Victoria British School ...

A. G. Warren ...

Kowloon Cricket Club ...

Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp ...

C. G. Alabaster ...

Hon. Mr. H. H. Gompertz ...

E. Davidson ...

C. E. H. Beavis ...

E. L. Agassiz ...

S. Barber ...

T. J. Edwards ...

W. Howard ...

J. H. R. Hance ...

P. B. Joly ...

T. Carr Ramsey ...

S. Barber ...

T. J. Edwards ...

W. Howard ...

J. H. R. Hance ...

P. B. Joly ...

Anonymous ...

J. McGregor (Fochow) ...

Mrs. J. McGregor (Fochow) ...

Miss W. M. Gomes (Fochow) ...

Staff, Dodwell &amp; Co. ...

Staff, General Post Office ...

Hon. Mr. Claud Severn ...

W. Izard Pedersen ...

Vald Bjerre ...

H. Owen Carstensen ...

T. H. King ...

Staff, Lane, Crawford &amp; Co.

Britishers ...

Wong Sin Woon ...

Staff, A. S. Watson &amp; Co., Ltd.

L. N. L. ...

S. G. Newall ...

H.E. Sir Henry May ...

C. Thorne ...

Royal Hongkong Golf Club, proceeds of Pool Competition

... 219.00

Ojager Singh ...

Ladies' Working Party of the

Union Church ...

Pentreath &amp; Co. ...

C. B. Brooke ...

Collected from the boxes at

Peak Tram Station, Star

Ferry Pier and Blake Pier ...

Chief Inspector Kerr ...

Inspector Gordon ...

Sergeant Cooper ...

Sergeant Willis ...

Amount realised for a case of

butterflies given by R. S. M.

Tatton, R.G.A., per Miss A.

Square, £41 at 2/4 ...

Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp ...

C. G. Alabaster ...

Hon. Mr. H. H. Gompertz ...

E. Davidson ...

C. E. H. Beavis ...

E. L. Agassiz ...

Proceeds of sale of Queen

Mary's Needlework Guild

Badges ...

Anonymous ...

Proceeds of croquet competi-

tion held at the L.R.C. ...

G. H. Wakeman ...

Ho Kom Tong ...

Kwok Siu Lau ...

Chun Tong ...

Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak ...

Chan Kai Ming ...

Ho Fook ...

Mok Tso Chuen ...

Leung Yan Po ...

Chow Shou Son ...

Chun King Yue ...

Ho Wing ...

Ip Sau Chi ...

Lo Cheung Shiu ...

Comrades to the Banque de

T. Indo-China ...

Lo Siu Hoi ...

Ip Tak &amp; Co. ...

Lo Chung Ki ...

Leung Sing Woon ...

She Tai Tsoi ...

Yang Yan Man ...

Tong San ...

Lo Shun Kam ...

Lu Po Sang ...

Mak Lai Ting ...

Lo Yuk Tong ...

Comrades to the Inter-

national Banking Corp. ...

Yunk Taz Ming ...

Fung Tang ...

Look Poong Shan ...

Kwong On Tai ...

Luen On ...

Wo Fat Shing ...

Yue Cheong ...

Ming Kee ...

Yee Wo ...

Shun Shing ...

Po Hing Tai ...

Tung Fat ...

Tsu Hing ...

Hing Kee ...

On Tai ...

Chung Hing ...

Sui Cheong ...

Fook Cheong Hing ...

Ying Fat Yuen ...

## HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

## ORDERS BY CAPTAIN J. H. D. ARMSTRONG, V.D.

## STRONG.

Pte. P. S. Lima joined the Corps on

13.8.17, is allotted Corps No. 2103 and

posted to Right Section M.G. Co.

Pte. W. H. Bredin joined the Corps on

13.8.17, is allotted Corps No. 2104

and posted to Scouts Co.

## ATTACHED.

Private G. Dumbarton, Shanghai Scot-

tish, S.V.C., is attached to Scouts

Coy. from 30th July, 1917.

## LEAVE.

Lieut. L. U. P. Rees is granted 6 weeks'

leave from 18.8.17.

No. 1890 Pte. J. N. R. Allan is granted 2

months' leave from 15.8.17.

No. 2304 Pte. T. J. Fisher is granted 1

month's leave from 24.8.17.

## PUNISHMENT.

No. 1785 Pte. L. M. Franco has been

awarded defaulters' drills in march-

ing order (without ammunition), for

neglect of duty, as under:—At Head-

quarters at 5.30 p.m., on 13th, 17th,

20th and 24th August, 1917.

## ENGINEER COMPANY.

Details of duties at Lyceum from 17th

to 31st August, 1917, is posted at

Headquarters.

## PARADES.

Monday, 20th inst.:—

5.10 p.m. Centre Section M.G. Co.,

drill at Kowloon Dock. Hong-

kong Residents proceed by launch

from Statue Wharf at 4.30 p.m.

5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery at

Belchers Battery.

5.30 p.m. Right Section M.G. Co.

and Scouts Company at Head-

quarters under unit Commanders.

Tests of Elementary Training.

5.30 p.m. Mounted Section at Jockey

Club Stables.

Recruits of all units on Murray

Parade Ground under Corps.

Grimes, Edmonds and Edmonds

and Lee-Corpl. Meade.

## Tuesday, 21st inst.:—

7.10 a.m. Scouts Company M.G. De-

tachment at Headquarters.

7.30 a.m. Belchers 6" Section at Bel-

chers Battery.

5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery (Range

Takers only) at Belchers Battery.

5.30 p.m. Left Section M.G. Co. and

Civil Service Company at Head-

quarters under unit Commander.

Section drill.

5.30 p.m. Streicher Bearer Section

at Headquarters.

5.30 p.m. Signalling Section "A"

and "B" classes at Happy Valley

(Heliograph and Flag Station

work).

## Wednesday, 22nd inst.:—

5.30 p.m. Right Section M.G. Co.

and Scouts Company at Headquar-

ters under unit Commanders.

Tests of Elementary Training.

Thursday, 23rd inst.:—

7.10 a.m. Scouts Company M.G. De-

tachment at Headquarters.

7.30 a.m. Belchers 6" Section (Layers

class only) at Belchers Battery.

5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery (Layers

and Sitters only) at Belchers Bat-

tery.

5.30 p.m. Mounted Section at Jockey

Club Stables.

Friday, 24th inst.:—

7.30 a.m. Belchers 6" Section (Range

Takers class and Gun Numbers as

detailed only) at Belchers Battery.

5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery (Gun

Numbers other than specialists) at

Belchers Battery.

5.30 p.m. Right Section M.G. Co. at

Headquarters under unit Com-

mander. Tests of Elementary

Training.

5.30 p.m. Recruits of all units on

Murray Parade Ground under

Corps. Grimes, Edmonds, and

Edmonds and Lee-Corpl. Meade.

5.30 p.m. Signalling Section "A"

and "B" classes at Happy Valley

(Heliograph and Flag Station

work).

## Saturday, 25th inst.:—

7.10 a.m. Scouts Company (men de-

tailed by Sgt. Major Ramsay) at

Headquarters. Musketry instru-

ction.

5.30 p.m. Special Parade at Head-

quarters for members of the Corps

(Infantry) unable to attend drills

ordered on 20th, 21st, 22nd and 24th

instant. One N.C.O. from each

unit sending men will attend.

## DETAIL.

On duty 19th inst.—Left Sec. M.G. Co.

and Civil Service Company.

On duty 20th inst.—Centre Section M.G.

Company.

On duty 21st inst.—Scouts Company.

On duty 22nd inst.—Scouts Company.

On duty 23rd inst.—Right Section M.G.

Company.

On duty 24th inst.—Left Section M.G.

Co. and Civil Service Co.

On duty 25th inst.—Centre Section M.G.

Company.

Orderly Officer from 19th to 25th inst.—

Lieut. J. D. Danby.

G. E. STEWART, Capt.,

Adjutant, H.K.V.C.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1917.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

HONGKONG AND CHINA DISTRICT.

Y.M.C.A. DIVISION.

Tuesday, August 21st:—

8 p.m., Squad and Stretcher Drill.

Thursday, August 23rd:—

8 p.m., Squad and Stretcher Drill.

RAISINGUN DIVISION.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

## A WARNING TO THE CHARITABLE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

Sir, May I, through the medium of your paper, warn the charitably disposed to be careful about giving money to Assyrians who come here collecting for their fellow-countrymen, who are undoubtedly suffering terribly. Recently one who gave the name of "the Rev. John Paris," presented excellent testimonials from the Duke of Connaught's Secretary, Bishops, and others. How he obtained them I do not know, but I now hear that the Home and Territories Department, Melbourne, has investigated his case and pronounced him to be a fraud. Neither he nor other Assyrian Collectors are allowed to land in Australia.

I think all who desire to help these suffering people will be well advised to send their contributions through the treasurer of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, 110, Victoria Street, London, S.W., or through the Secretaries of the London Jews Society, 16 Lincoln's Inn Field, London, W.C.—I am, Yours, etc.,

G. H. VICTORIA.

St. Paul's College.

Hongkong, August 17th, 1917.

## THE SERVICE DOLLAR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

Sir,—With reference to the recent correspondence in your paper on the above subject, could you kindly inform the Service people what has been done in the matter? I understand that the Chamber of Commerce and the China Association have taken the grievance up, and it seems a great pity that the efforts of "Justice" should be fruitless.

In a few days' time the Military rate for the ensuing month will be fixed, and, judging by the present rate of exchange, it cannot be less than 2s. 9d. or 2s. 10d., so that the subject is getting one of great urgency and seriousness.

By October the Services will be practically on half-pay, at the same time paying war prices for their various purchases in a place where the recognised standard is 1s. 1s. and 10 cents 1d. In sending troops to Hongkong to serve their country, who, in the majority of cases, are medically unfit for service elsewhere due, in some cases, to active service—one can hardly imagine it to be the intention of the War Office to reward these men by putting them on half-pay. Heaven forbid the inauguration of any firebrands in the nature of Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates, but if the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and China Association are without avail, nothing short of organised action will have any effect.

Comparisons between the hardship of the Services in Hongkong and the imagined hardships of the Labour element at Home, for which the latter strike periodically, are odious. There is scarcely a section of labour at Home at the present day which has not, since the outbreak of war, struck for more money and less hours, and as soon as they have adjusted their expenses to meet their increased income out they come again for another 5 per cent. or something else.

The Service people, or at least the two or three that have taken the trouble to do anything else besides grouse, are not asking for any more than that to which they are entitled by the extraordinary regulations by which they are governed. Just think of the red flags that would be waving in Hyde Park, etc., if some of the munition factories told all their employees that on and from such and such a date, owing to the rise in the price of silver, they would only be paid out at the rate of 12s. 6d. to the £1.

Any information you can give us on this vexatious subject would be gratefully received. The people who should take the necessary action evidently could not have done so in sufficiently strong terms. Persistence by the public of Hongkong is the only thing which will remedy the fault. By the way, the officers got some compensation when the dollar rose to 1s. 11d., but the men got nothing. We leave it to the public to see that this does not occur again.—Yours faithfully,

## BANKRUPT.

[Our Correspondent may rest assured that the grievance of the Service men in this Colony is not being forgotten. At the same time that a telegram on the subject was addressed to the Prime Minister jointly by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce and the local branch of the China Association, one was also sent to the China Association in London. Recently a second telegram was sent to the same body, and further action locally is being deferred for a few days pending the receipt of a reply.—Ed., H.D.P.]

## COTTON AND YARN MARKET.

Messrs. Polihwall & Kotewall, cotton and yarn brokers, of Hongkong, inform us that they are not issuing their usual fortnightly circular as during the past two weeks no business has passed and the market remains entirely at a standstill owing to the unexpected and sensational rise in exchange.

## HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon &amp; Smyth, in their weekly share report dated the 17th August, 1917, state:—

Our last report was dated 10th August, and in the interval our local market has suffered from a rapidly rising exchange market, which has tended to reduce transactions to a minimum, and we have to report an extremely dull market in both investment and speculative stocks. Shanghai market has suffered from the same cause and but little business has been put through. Singapore market has been favourably influenced by exchange, and a fair business has been done. The Kedah Company has declared a final dividend of 25 per cent., making 55 per cent. in all. Sandycroft has declared a first interim of 5 per cent.

The following are to-day's wired quotations for Rubber shares in Straits currency:—

Alor Gajahs	£4.40
Ayer Panas	11.40
Glenelg	2.50
Kedahs	1.40 cum. div.
Kempas	8.50
Malaka Pindas	3.05
Malakoffs	4.70
New Serendahs	1.90
Sandycrofts	4.70 cum. div.
Plantations	25.00

Plantation Rubber is quoted in London at 2/9s. Bar Silver is quoted 44d. Sterling T. T. is 2/11s. Singapore T. T. is 12s. Shanghai T. T. and the Bank's buying rate for 3d. bills are both nominal.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have gradually receded, under the influence of exchange, to a selling rate of 8010 (ex div. of 17.00) with sales made at several intermediate rates. Buyers offer 8000.

MARINE INSURANCES.—No sales are reported. Unions are on offer at 9825. Yangtzes are wanted at 197, with exchange 73. Cantons are nominal at 9325, with probable buyers at a little under. North Chinas are unchanged and nominal at 140.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Sales of Hongkong Fires have been made at 2000 and there are further buyers. China Fires are nominal at 8140.

SHIPPING.—This market has been quite neglected, and no sales are reported. Prices remain nominal and unchanged, with Indo-China Deferred at 8101, Douglas at 955, Steamboats at 818 and Star Ferries at 823.

OILS.—Shells are now quoted at 110/- nominal, ex rights. Langkats are wanted at 11s. 15s. Ural Caspians are nominal, 32/-.

REFINERIES.—Market has been lifeless and prices are unaltered. China Sugars at 806 nominal, and Malabons at 820 buyers.

MINES.—Raub has been done at 22.65 and a small lot at 22.80. Market has since weakened, and shares might be got at 22.90. Kailans have buyers at 34/6. Tronohs are nominal at 25/6.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Coy. has declared an interim dividend of 21 per cent. payable on 30th September. The shares, however, have slowly sagged to 111½, closing with buyers at 112. Kowloon Wharves are rather lower, and shares are probably obtainable at 87½. Shanghai Docks show no change and are wanted at 78.

LANDS, HOUSES, AND BUILDINGS.—Very little business has been passing in this section. Humphreys have buyers at 861, and West Points are in demand at 270. Centrals are on offer at 865. The Hotel Coy. has declared a dividend of 33 for the last year, and the shares are quoted at 1100 nominal. Lands remain nominal at 891.

COTTON MILLS.—Market has been dull and lifeless, small sales of Kung Yiks at 71. 13 being the only business reported. Yangtzes can be had at 11s. 52. Ewos are quoted at 11s. 162, Shanghai Cottons at 11s. 124, and Orientals at 11s. 42, all nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have been sold from 87.35 down to 87, at which they close steady. Trams are quoted nominal at 86.20 (ex div. of 17.50 cents), but shares could be placed at 86.10. Ropes are nominal at 27½. The Company has declared an interim dividend of 81 payable on 24th inst. Electrics are wanted at 84s. and Steam Laundries at 83.40. China Borneos were done at 87, which remains the nominal quotation. Other quotations are nominal at prices mentioned in the list.

Memo.—Next Settlement day, 29th Aug.

## LARGE STRAW HATS

## ARE THEY AN OBSTRUCTION?

Are the large straw sun hats, frequently adopted by coolies, and which cause much inconvenience to pedestrians on the pavements, an obstruction within the meaning of the law? This point caused Mr. Dyer Ball, the Magistrate, some anxiety at the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday.

The previous day a coolie who was found wearing one of these huge hats while walking on the pavement was charged with causing an obstruction by wearing the same, and the case was put back to discover if there was a precedent for such a prosecution.

Inspector Brown, when the case was resumed, said that he had been unable to discover a precedent, after a careful search through the Court records.

Mr. Dyer Ball then asked if an umbrella, when opened on the pavement, was considered to be an obstruction?

Inspector Kent—Yes, your Worship, we have always considered it to be so. He also said that he remembered a conviction for wearing a large straw hat when on the pavement, some years ago.

Inspector Brown said he had been unable to find the case.

Inspector Kent—It was twelve or thirteen years ago.

Mr. Dyer Ball—This sort of thing does not happen very often. I should think that these sun hats cause as much inconvenience to the wearer as to passers-by.

Inspector Kent—It is not very nice to be struck in the face with the brim of these hats.

Eventually Mr. Dyer Ball decided to caution the man and to discharge him. He also remarked that no doubt the wearer had a very hard job of it in dodging people as they passed to and fro.

## CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO FUND.

The following is the Subscription List to date:—

Acknowledged to 7th July, 1917 \$22,683.44

Since received:—

Bank Interest	\$ 3.74
Hongkong Police Reserve Fund, proceeds of sale of boxing gloves to Mr. Potter at the Assault at Arms held on 19th May	\$100.00
Members, Kowloon Customs Staff, per Mr. O. D. Gander	40.00
"A Bridge Mug" July/August	2.00
L. E. S. H.	5.00
M. S. S. August Subscription	5.00
Mr. F. G. Beck, Whampoa August Sub.	20.00
Collected by Mrs. W. E. L. Shenton (List No. 3.)	355.00
	\$539.74
	539.74
	\$539,223.18

Expended to 7th July \$22,515.33

Since expended:—

3rd Aug. 200,000	
Cigarettes sent to the troops at the Front	\$588.48
2,500 Cigarettes sent to Rev. Mr. Hastings for Naval Ratings in Hongkong	\$6.25
1,500 Cigarettes sent to troops in Matilda Hospital	\$4.05
10,000 Cigarettes sent to the troops at the Peak	\$31.00
	628.36
	\$22,515.33
Balance on Hand	\$ 79.40

W. A. Dowling, (Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.)

Hongkong, August 16th, 1917.

Among general acknowledgments is the following from 2nd Lieut. Stuart H. Nimmo, C. Coy. 8th B. S. Fus. Salomina Forces, dated June 15th.

"A note to thank you, on behalf of my platoon, for your gift of cigarettes. Cigarettes are very scarce out in this forsaken part of the globe, and just lately the men have been smoking shag which didn't have arrived at a better time. Please convey my thanks to the donors. Yours sincerely," etc.

## CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO"]

## THE FIRST PARLIAMENTARY MEETING.

The Members of Parliament in Canton have decided to revive the old Parliament. The first meeting will be held on Saturday.

## ACTING PRESIDENT'S DELEGATE.

On account of the independence of the Kwangsi Acting President, Feng Kuochang, has sent Li Koi-sin (the ex-Civil Governor of Kwangtung) to Kwangsi to consult with General Luk Wing-ting on the subject.

## CHAN PING-KWAN'S RETURN.

It was stated that Chan Ping-kwan had, by request, gone to Kwangsi. After his consultation with General Luk Wing-ting, however, Chan returned to Canton yesterday afternoon. People are surprised at his sudden return.

## REPAIR OF NAVAL SHIPS.

The Director of the Harbour Defence has ordered the manager of the Canton-Wong Po Dockyard to employ workmen from Hongkong for the repairing of naval ships and to purchase a large quantity of steel from Japan.

## CIVIL GOVERNOR'S DEPARTURE.

It was rumoured that Chu Hing-lan, the Civil Governor, would leave Canton very soon, but he has written to his friends stating that his departure is not fixed.

## TIMBER GUILD'S GRIEVANCE.

The Timber Guild of Canton has petitioned the Authorities and Chamber of Commerce complaining that the Customs has increased the duty on timber shipped to Hongkong and Macao tenfold. They are, therefore, obliged to stop all shipments at present, and ask that the matter may be investigated.

## TROOPS FOR HUNAN.

The Third Division, commanded by Chung Hui-yue, in Shueichow, will be despatched to Hunan on the 20th inst. Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other officials have been asked to inspect the troops before their departure.

## THE WAR MINISTRY.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen has proposed to Admiral Ching Pih-kwong and others, to form a War Ministry. General Luk Wing-ting will be appointed as the head. Dr. Sun Yat-sen, after visiting the Chinese Authorities, paid a visit to the Consuls in Shanghai.

Admiral Ching Pih-kwong has ordered the 1st squadron of the Navy to do gun practice every day before the expedition to the North.

## EX-PREMIER TO VISIT CANTON.

The ex-Premier, Wu Ting-fang, by request of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and others, will come to Canton soon.

## THE PREMIER'S ATTITUDE.

A letter from a Tientsin Correspondent states that the Premier, Tuan Chi-jui, has decided to use military force to stop the independence of the Southern Provinces. It is reported that he has sent to Canton a high military officer who has with him a large sum for bribing troops and this officer is to report to Peking all military movements. He is expected in Canton shortly.

## WELCOME TO THE PARLIAMENTARIANS.

It is understood that a concert is being organised at which the members of Parliament will be given a public welcome to Canton.

## JAPAN'S POPULATION.

## MARRIAGE SHOULD PREVAIL.

## SOME OFFICIAL STATISTICS.

That the problem of population is not accidental but will assume the dignity of a troublesome question for the Japan of to-morrow is indicated by many writers and thinkers who are qualified to talk on the subject according to *The Japan Advertiser*. Mr. Yasunori Nikaido, an official of the Statistical Bureau in the Tokyo Prefectural Office, recently delivered an interesting lecture, which is calculated to throw some light on the subject.

Speaking from the standpoint of the growth of the Japanese population, the thing called "wife" does more good to the state than anything else you know," said Mr. Nikaido. "Death rates are unimpaired among men and women who are unmarried. Married men, in particular, die less frequently than married women. Of women, wives die less than misses. We must attribute to the wife a large measure of credit for the growth in population which Japan enjoys, a privilege which seems to be denied to other nations, especially those of Europe."

JAPAN'S DEATH RATE HIGH.

"Growth in civilization brings two unavoidable results: the contraction of population in cities, and the decrease in birth rates. These are the two wings of the problem of national population. Most of the civilized nations, especially France, are troubled with this problem. There are many causes for it, but the principal one is the development of principles of individualism to an extent which interferes with the growth of population. On the other hand, the death rate is on the wane. The nations of Scandinavia, such as Sweden and Norway, boast of the minimum death rates, that is, 13 per 1,000 people; but it seems they cannot go further than that. How about Japan? Her death rate is alarming in comparison with other civilized nations. From 20 to 21 deaths take place per 1,000 in Japan. This is a graver problem than the other problem of people rushing into cities. As to its causes, European investigators count four factors—infectious diseases of acute character, tuberculosis, disorders of respiratory organs, diseases of digestive organs. To these four are added in our case three others—typhoid, beriberi and constitutional feebleness of body. Thus there are seven causes for the high death rate that prevails in Japan. Particularly big is the percentage of deaths from tuberculosis. Japan is twice, or rather thrice, higher than European nations in this respect."

TUBERCULOSIS KILLS WOMEN.

"Differentiated to sex, Japanese women die in larger numbers than men. The cause, one may think, may be accounted for by the common burden of woman, child birth. But a close study of statistics shows that this is not the case. By far the greatest cause of woman mortality in Japan is tuberculosis. For comparing married women with the unmarried, the latter die in a greater number than the former."

So I say: bachelors and spinsters, get married. As for widows and widowers, the Japanese proverb is right. "Widows bear beautiful blossoms, but widowers go to the worms." So get married and live long."

Appropos of Mr. Nikaido's statement an article which appeared in the *Yomiuri* some time ago regarding the problem of female population in Tokyo will be read with interest. The following passages may be quoted:—

EARLY DEATH BY LATE MARRIAGE.

"According to the statistical figures, Japanese women, especially those living in Tokyo and other large cities, are decreasing at a rapid rate. In Tokyo, for instance, there are 1,204,955 men and 1,039,841 women. Thus women are fewer than men by 200,000. Considering that the bulk of hard labour and responsibilities, such as conscription, is discharged by men, one would have expected to hear of larger mortalities among men than among women. But facts prove the contrary. The same phenomenon one is observed in other cities. It is pointed out by some persons that early marriage of Japanese women is helping this state of affairs. The figures show, however, that the truth is just the other way. Late marriage, which is fast becoming a fashion among Japanese women, is a great cause of early death and also of general decrease in Japan's birth rates. This latter phenomenon is now in an increasing degree conspicuous. These two questions taken in consideration with the problem of female education deserve the utmost study and investigation."

Another notable phenomenon is the remarkable increase in recent years of the birth of male infants.

## APPROACHING VISIT OF THE FRAWLEY CO.

The Frawley Company, which has its headquarters in New York, is now making a tour in the Far East and is expected to open its season at the Theatre Royal, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 25th inst. According to all the accounts which have reached us, the tour so far has been eminently successful. In Shanghai, crowded houses were the rule, and in Manila, also, the Company has had a most enthusiastic reception. The Company's repertoire includes a number of modern plays which have never been presented in the Colony, and, as Mr. T. Daniel Frawley has a high reputation to maintain, it is to be expected that they will be well worth seeing. "Peg O' My Heart," which is one of the Company's chief successes, is, of course, well known here. Other plays include "Twin Beds," which is described as a "double-laughter farce"; "The Outcast," which had a year's run at Sir Charles Wyndham's Theatre; "Under Cover," "The Wolf," "Paid in Full," etc. The leading lady of the Company is Miss Gloria Fonda, who has played largely in musical comedies, and has recently returned from a vaudeville tour of the world, including engagements in London, Paris, and Petrograd and in Australia and South Africa.

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# THE WAR.

## GREAT BATTLE IN THE WEST.

ANGLO-FRENCH OFFENSIVE.

### WAR SITUATION REVIEWED.

STATEMENT BY MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

### POPE AND PEACE.

#### Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### THE GREAT BATTLE.

THROUGH GERMAN EYES.

LONDON, August 16th.

A wireless German official message says:—The second great Flanders battle burst forth with an artillery duel of the most violent description along the coast between the Yser and Deutl.

The English attacked on an eighteen kilometres front between Bixchoote and Wytshaete. The English attacked between Hulluch and Lens yesterday morning.

Four Canadian Divisions forced our first positions in an effort to deepen the gap on both sides of Loos. Their objective was Vendin-le-Viel village, but their gun is small. Eleven fresh attacks southward of Hulluch and westward of Lens failed.

The French fired 3,000 shells at St. Quentin, and fired the Cathedral. French attacks between Cerny and Hurtebise Farm failed.

#### BRITISH ARTILLERY.

ALMOST SENTIENT PRECISION.

LONDON, August 16th.

Routier's correspondent at headquarters says:—Both sides have been fighting desperately in the neighbourhood of Glencorse Wood, which is a strong tactical point. The infantry loudly praise the almost sentient precision of the artillery barrage. One of the worst experiences befalling the German counter-attacks was when the guns put down a curtain-fire behind assaulting waves and then heaved them on with a creeping, whirling barrage. Machineguns represented the chief difficulty with which we had to contend.

The Boche artillery appears to have afforded rather erratic support. Zonnebeke tumbledown was the scene of fierce fighting to-day. Picked *Sturmtruppen* chiefly delivered the counter-attacks. The French continued to progress well, but their movement was mainly designed to conform to our advance.

#### ALLIED ATTACK.

FURIOUS FIGHTING.

LONDON, August 16th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The Allied attack on a front of nine miles, northward of the Ypres-Menin-Road, was continued all day in face of strong resistance. The French, on the left, advanced astride of the Zuygheote and Dixmude Road, and cleared a tongue of land between the Yser Canal and Martijevaart. They captured a bridge-head at Driegraschen.

The British centre rapidly captured the first objectives, and carried Langemarck after heavy fighting. They advanced half a mile beyond, and established themselves in the German trench system, the days final objective. There was fierce and continuous fighting for the high ground northward of the Menin Road. The enemy repeatedly heavily counter-attacked, and pressed us back on a part of the ground won earlier. Our artillery broke up evening counter-attacks in this neighbourhood.

#### BRITISH CAPTURES.

MUCH AERIAL ACTIVITY.

LONDON, August 16th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Eighteen hundred prisoners have already been brought in. We have progressed eastward of Loos, and have prisoners 895 since yesterday in this front.

Aeroplanes effectively co-operated yesterday, and machine-gunned counter-attacks.

We brought down twelve and drove down four. Three of ours are missing. Excellent aeroplane work was done to-day.

#### FRENCH PROGRESSING.

ARTILLERY ACTIVE.

PARIS, August 17th.

A communiqué says:—In Belgium our attack has successfully continued.

The infantry broke the enemy resistance west of Steenbeck and are progressing in conjunction with the British. They captured all the enemy positions and took over 300 prisoners. Considerable material was captured.

Both artilleries were active in the regions of Laffaux and Hurtebise.

The Germans fired St. Quentin Cathedral, which was burning for several hours.

#### GERMAN CLAIMS.

LONDON, August 16th.

A wireless German official message says:—We shattered the Flanders assault on a front of thirty kilometres.

The enemy had only local successes at Driegraschen and Langemarck. We completely repulsed the enemy everywhere between St. Julien and Warneton.

EARLIER CABLES.

#### HEAVY FIGHTING.

GALLANT CANADIANS.

LONDON, August 16th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué, states:—The Canadians this morning stormed positions to the south-east and east of Loos, on a front of two miles. They carried formidable defences on Hill 70, which, since September, 1915, when the enemy resisted our attacks, have been strengthened by every device. After storming the first trench system on the whole front, they advanced as far as the western defences at Cite St. Auguste, penetrating to a depth of one mile. They gained possession of Cite St. Elizabeth, Cite St. Emille, Cite St. Laurent, Bois Rose and the western half of Bois Hugo, capturing all their objectives. Our casualties were slight. We repulsed five counter-attacks, one of which was by the Prussian Guards. The enemy's losses were heavy, 292 prisoners already having reached the collecting stations. We completely repulsed an attack in the neighbourhood of Pilkem, on the Langemarck Road. We brought down nine German aeroplanes and drove down five. Seven of our machines are missing, two of which were overtaken by a violent storm.

The Allies this morning again attacked on a wide front east and north of Ypres. There is heavy fighting. We are progressing at all points, despite a stubborn resistance. We repulsed three more counter-attacks last night against new positions on the Lens battle front. Our artillery broke up concentrations near Cite St. Auguste.

#### ANGLO-FRENCH OFFENSIVE.

PARIS, August 16th.

A communiqué states:—In Belgium, after a violent and thorough artillery preparation, we attacked at dawn in conjunction with the British Army on our right. The infantry, with superb elan, assaulted enemy positions on both sides of the Steenstraete-Dixmude Road, carrying all their objectives. They crossed the Steenbeck, progressing on the right bank in contact with the British troops. A vigorous attack south of Ailles carried a solid enemy trench system on a front of one kilometre. Four enemy counter-attacks were easily repulsed. Up to the present we have taken 120 prisoners. During our attack in the Ailles and Hurtebise sector, aeroplanes flying low, despite the bad weather, accompanied the infantry and machine-gunned enemy dug-outs and reserves.

#### DESPERATE BATTLE.

LONDON, August 16th.

Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters says:—At 4.45 this morning the Anglo-French renewed their offensive in Flanders, attacking from the region opposite the famous Polygon de Zonnebeke, in the south, to the left of the French positions, in the north. Heavy gunnery all night long swelled into great intensity as the time for launching the assault drew near. The weather, save for light showers, was tolerably clear.

By the way, our men are laughingly predicting the end of the Hun's luck in the matter of the weather, since the other day we captured one of the meteorological experts of the German Army.

It is too early yet to gather reliable details of the fighting. That the battle was desperately contested is assured by the great strength of the reserves thrown in by this portion of Prince Rupprecht's group. Between the early morning and ten o'clock last night, the Canadians beat off no fewer than ten German counter-attacks and have still retained the whole of the captured ground. As the enemy's reserves had to advance over open ground, they suffered heavy, especially the Fourth Prussian Guards, who seem to have been specially retained as a counter-attacking force. They moved forward late in the afternoon to assemble for attack. The ground was swept by our artillery. They actually came in battalions, marching in fours. Our machine-guns also did terrible work amongst them. Although one division marched on, the men never seemed to get any nearer our line. Meanwhile corpses were piling up in an appalling manner. These Prussians certainly marched to their death like soldiers, and when they at last halted and retired there was so little left of the Division that it may truly be said that they were virtually annihilated. Our own casualties till last night were light, considering the character of the fighting.

The enemy's artillery has been intense and has been directed by his aeroplanes, which have been more than usually adventurous. Coloured balls and signal lights have been scoring and bursting in a regular firework display throughout the day. The bulk of these signals of distress came from the Germans.

#### GREATEST BATTLE IN ALL HISTORY.

LONDON, August 16th.

The latest British stroke is clearly part of one great offensive, constituting what is probably the greatest battle in all history. Comment both in London and Paris is restrained, for it is realised that an immense task confronts the Allies in ousting the Germans from Belgium and France, and there is a disposition to await developments calmly and confidently. There is evidence that the German General Staff do not think the full strength of the offensive has even yet developed. The German newspapers are fully alive to the Western menace, and latest comment shows that they are probably instructed to prepare the people for certain possibilities. A semi-official correspondent of the *Koelnische Volks Zeitung* says that the worst hardships and the heaviest hours are about to come as the Anglo-French are making a three-fold offensive. He warns the people to prepare for grave difficulties, and says all their hopes centre in General von Hindenburg.

#### BRITISH CAPTURE LANGEMARCK.

LONDON, August 16th.

Mr. Lloyd George has announced that Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig this morning captured Langemarck, taking 1,200 prisoners and capturing five guns. [Langemarck is situated about five miles north-east of Ypres.]

#### BRITISH AIR AID.

LONDON, August 16th.

A message from Amsterdam says that a British air squadron bombed a German barracks, automobile park and munition sheds at Contrai on Tuesday, doing enormous damage. Twenty soldiers suffered casualties. The squadron returned safely.

#### Russian front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### TURKISH OFFENSIVE.

HEAVY FIGHTING.

PETROGRAD, August 16th.

A wireless Russian official message says:—The Roumanians, for strategic reasons, withdrew to Soveja, taking up a new line. We repulsed attacks in the Buchita Valley. The Germans renewed the offensive in the direction of Focani. The Russo-Roumanians retired to the north-east. The Turks, together with several thousand Kurds, took the offensive on Tuesday in the direction of Kharpout. They were repulsed everywhere with the exception of in the region of Mount Salbasdag.

#### GERMAN CLAIMS.

An official wireless German message says:—Northward of St. Raoni and Poncu, Russo-Roumanian attacks failed. We dislodged the enemy from the west bank of the Bereth, taking 3,554 prisoners and capturing 16 guns.

#### Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### RUSSIAN LOSS.

PETROGRAD, August 16th.

An enemy mine destroyed a torpedo boat destroyer in the Aland Archipelago.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### SHIPPING.

ROME, August 16th.

For the week ending August 12th there were 550 arrivals and 509 sailings. Six steamers and five sailing vessels were sunk. Only one sailing ship was over a hundred tons.

For the week ending August 12th the arrivals of vessels at French ports were 1,010, while the sailings numbered 1,023. One vessel over and three under 1,000 tons were sunk, and five vessels were unsuccessfully attacked.

#### HOSPITAL SHIPS.

THE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN.

LONDON, August 16th.

In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil confirmed the Anglo-Franco-Spanish agreement regarding hospital ships, cabled on August 7th. He said he hoped that it would end the enemy attacks on hospital ships, but a definite assurance from Germany had not yet been received. The names and full particulars of identification of all British hospital ships will be communicated to the enemy prior to their employment as hospital ships, in accordance with the Hague Convention. Lord Robert believed that the suggestion for the new arrangement came from Britain.

#### General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### THE WAR SITUATION.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

LONDON, August 16th.

Mr. Lloyd George, the Premier, made an important speech in the House of Commons on several aspects of the war situation.

He first referred to the food position, which, he said, had very considerably improved since the early part of the year. In August last year there was a stock of six-and-a-half million quarters of wheat in the country. Now it was eight-and-a-half million. (Cheers.) Stocks of oats and barley were also higher. There had been a considerable saving in bread consumption, while the acreage under cultivation had been increased by one million. If the harvest was as good as promised, then the condition of the country as regards food supplies, taking everything into account, was very satisfactory. He still urged economy, because the more we economised the less we would need from Canada and the United States, from where France and Italy also drew supplies. There was an increase in the reserve of sugar.

Eight thousand tractors would be available in the Spring.

The German Admiralty was circulating figures of destroyed shipping throughout the Central Empires with the object of cheering up the Austro-Germans by creating the impression that England could not last much longer. The Germans claimed that we were losing half-a-million tons per month, after allowing for new construction. We lost 550,000 tons gross in April, but the gross losses in July were reduced to 320,000 tons. (Cheers.) August looked like being better. (Cheers.) If the present improvement continued the net loss for July and August would be at the rate of 175,000 tons per month. These figures showed that the Admiralty were meeting with considerable success. The Shipping Controller, also, had so reorganised shipping, the means for better loading, the hiring of ships more quickly, and the taking of ships off longer voyages that he had been able to secure, that although we had diminished tonnage we were carrying more tons.

Shipbuilding was quickening. Many ships had been ordered from abroad. Six hundred and eighty thousand tons were built in Britain in 1915, 538,000 in 1916, and 480,000 tons in the first six months of 1917. In the last six months of 1917, 1,420,000 tons would be acquired, of which 1,100,000 would be built in Britain, making the total for the year 1,900,000 tons, besides large naval construction. He believed the shipping losses would decrease, and he was certain construction would increase.

We still needed more shipping, but if the United States exerted her full capacity, as doubtless she was preparing to do, we should have sufficient tonnage not only for the whole of 1918, but, if necessary, for 1919.

Dealing with the military situation, he declared that he would not exchange our position for the enemy's. Our difficulties would diminish and our powers increase. The enemy's difficulties would increase and their powers diminish.

The Premier proceeded to read a telegram from the Front regarding the latest offensive, which, he said, was not intended to be a big operation. The telegram stated that severe fighting had continued, and the result was not yet determined. The French were effectively co-operating, while the Canadian Infantry had won a conspicuous success. He then mentioned the capture of Langemarck, and went into say that this is the supreme hour for patience, courage, endurance, hope and unity. "Let us go through this hour with the old temper of our race. That will enable us to destroy the great military despotism, so that next year we, and the world, shall begin to reap the fruits of our valour." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Asquith, who followed the Premier, said we could survey the scene, not with complacency after what happened in Russia, but with satisfaction so far as our own efforts were concerned. What happened in Russia frustrated one of the great military purposes of the Allies, but they hoped Russia would soon resume her full share of the common task.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald pressed the Government to reconsider its attitude towards the Stockholm Conference, and argued that M. Kerensky favoured it.

Mr. Bonar Law, replying, denied the truth of the insinuation that M. Kerensky's telegram, stating the Provisional Government's attitude towards Stockholm, was the result of a fishing message sent by the British. M. Kerensky's wire was entirely spontaneous. It was of importance that Britain had believed that the Russian Government itself was initiating the Stockholm Conference. He believed that to be true until the time of the change of the Government, but the present Government expressly dissociated itself from direct responsibility. M. Kerensky had pointed out that a Coalition Government could not be bound by the decisions of a conference in which one party was represented.

A message amplifying the Premier's remarks, says that Mr. Lloyd George, referring to the military position, said he anticipated this year a great converging movement against the foes of Russia, who was equipped therefore as she had never been before. The nippers were beginning to grip, but one blow of the nippers is out of repair, momentarily. Therefore, they had not attained the converging pressure anticipated. But things are mending. The situation in Russia is very difficult, hence he deprecated a discussion of the domestic politics of Russia. (Cheers.) "Despite the difficulties, and troubles, at the end of three years, when every country must feel exhausted, I would not exchange our military position with that of the enemy to-day."

The best the enemy can do in a year, when practically their most powerful opponent at the beginning of the war is momentarily paralysed by internal difficulties, is to barely hold their own against the attacks of the British and French, and she is not quite doing it. On the contrary, in that year she has been beaten in several great battles with severe losses, and hundreds of her guns have been captured, which is not a bad test of a winning or losing battle—all that when Russia was practically out of the campaign.

When Russia has recovered, and America is really in, the enemy will have something to think about. The present moment is the hour of their difficulty. Our difficulties will diminish and our power will increase, while their difficulties will increase and their power diminish—and they know it.

EARLIER CABLES.

#### LABOUR TROUBLES IN GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, August 16th.

Handbills have been circulated among German munition factories, inciting the workers to strike. A semi-official communication hopes that the workers will not listen to such incitements.

#### PARIS BY RAIL.

LONDON, August 16th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Cabinet had most carefully considered the question of the Channel Tunnel, in consultation with their naval and military advisers, and were still of the opinion that it was impracticable to proceed with it during war time.

#### LABOUR TROUBLES IN ENGLAND.

#### RAILWAYMAN WANT EIGHT HOUR DAY.

LONDON, August 16th.

In the House of Commons, Sir Arthur Stanley spoke of the possibility of a stoppage of work by a section of the railway way drivers and firemen with the object of establishing the principle of an eight-hour day. He stated that the Cabinet was of opinion that an eight-hour day was impracticable in war time. He did not believe that any responsible body of men would prejudice war conduct by participating in a stoppage, but steps were being taken to deal with any emergency.

Mr. Thomas, on behalf of the National Union of Railwaymen, disclaimed a threat of stoppage of work.

#### THE EXILED EX-TSAR.

#### FEAR OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION.

PETROGRAD, August 16th.

Bolsk, in Siberia, is the destination of the ex-Tsar and family, whose exile was decided on in consequence of information received by the Government of a counter-revolutionary agitation and the possibility of an attempt to release the ex-Tsar from confinement at Tearskoye-Selo.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

LONDON, August 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Conference on the Reform of the House of Lords would consist of fifteen Peers and fifteen members of the House of Commons.

#### SILVER.

LONDON, August 16th.

Silver stands at 44. There are no offerings. The market is firm, and there are buyers.

#### CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG KONG SAN PO."] CHINO-GERMAN TREATIES.

SHANGHAI, August 17th.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a Note to the Dutch Minister stating that the Treaties of 1861, 1880 and 1901, made between China and Germany, have been cancelled.

#### CHINESE AFFAIRS IN AUSTRIA.

The Government has cabled the Chinese Minister at Vienna, ordering him to return, and to entrust Denmark with China's interests in Austria.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Austrian officers and Marines at Tientsin have been sent to Peking. Five German prisoners have escaped to the Pehtai River. The Ministry of War has despatched gendarmes to round them up.

#### POPE AND PEACE.

THE PAPAL TERMS.

LONDON, August 16th.

The text of the Papal Note, addressed to the heads of the belligerent peoples, has been published.

It is prefaced by a statement that His Holiness' aim since his accession has been to observe absolute neutrality and concurrently to do everything in his power to hasten the end of the war. He states that he has not ceased during the three painful years to exhort the belligerent peoples and Governments to resume fraternal relationship, although everything that has been done has not been made public. His Holiness refers to the non-success of his previous appeal for peace, since when the war has become more cruel, extending on land and sea, and even in the air. Defenceless cities, quiet villages, innocent inhabitants have been stricken with desolation and death. The Note envisages the multiplied and aggravated sufferings that will ensue if the war continues, perhaps for years. Must the world become a field of death and Europe speed to an abyss and lend a hand in its own suicide? Therefore a sense of his supreme duty as the Father of the Faithful and also the solicitation of his children imploring intervention, as well as the voice of humanity and reason, impel him to renew a pressing appeal for peace, but in order not to confine himself any longer to general terms, as previously, he now submits more concrete and more practical proposals and invites the belligerent Governments to deliberate on the following points, which seem to form the basis of a fair and lasting peace:

Primarily, the fundamental point ought to be the substitution of material force of arms by the moral force of right, from which there should be an agreement for a simultaneous and reciprocal reduction of armaments, according to rules and guarantees, to a degree only necessary for the maintenance of public order in each State, and then the establishment of arbitration, providing for concerted action and penalties against a State refusing to submit international questions thereto or to accept its decisions. The Note proceeds to express the view that once the supremacy of right was thus established, rules could be fixed assuring real liberty and freedom of the seas, thus eliminating numerous causes of dispute, opening to all new sources of prosperity and progress. His Holiness does not see any other means of solving the question of reparation for any payment of war costs than a complete and mutual liquidation as a general principle, and refers in this connection to the immense amounts that will be received from disarmament. Besides, it is incomprehensible that the carnage will continue for economic reasons, and peaceful agreement is not possible without a reciprocal restitution of the occupied territories. Consequently, Germany should evacuate Belgium, guaranteeing her unhampered independence. She should also evacuate French territory. The other group of belligerents should restore the German colonies. With regard to the territorial questions of such countries as Italy, Austria and Germany and France, the Pope is expressed that the warring nations will conciliatorily examine those matters, taking into consideration the people's aspirations as far as possible and co-ordinating the special interests for the general good of human society. The same spirit of equity and justice should animate the examination of other territorial and political questions, particularly those relating to Armenia, the Balkan States and the territories constituting the old Kingdom of Poland. The noble, historic and traditional long sufferings of the latter, especially in the present war, should arouse the nations' sympathies. The Note believes that an acceptance of the foregoing leading points will prevent a recurrence of the quarrels and prepare a solution of the economic question. It concludes with an earnest and prayerful appeal to turn a favourable ear to the communication.

Cardinal Gasparri, in a covering letter with the Note, asks His Majesty the King to convey copies to the Presidents of France and the United States and the King of Italy, in consequence of the absence of diplomatic relations.

#### ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE.

LONDON, August 16th.

The Pope's proposals are the topic of the moment. An interesting fact is that the covering letter addressed to King George asks His Majesty to transmit the Note to France and America, nations which are friendly Allies. The opinions of the papers are unchanged—that the proposals are absolutely unacceptable, as they mean merely a German peace.

#### HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS.

DEALING WITH RANK.

The following clauses have been added to the Military Service Ordinance:

(1)—Every person who is liable to military service under this Ordinance and who immediately before the commencement of this Ordinance was a member of any rank of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps or of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve shall upon such commencement become a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps and shall therein have the same rank as he had in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps or in the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve immediately before such commencement: provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as giving any such persons any right whatsoever to be continued in that rank.

(2)—All sums which immediately before the commencement of this Ordinance were standing to the credit of the Corps Funds of the Hongkong Volunteers and the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve shall forthwith be paid to the Colonial Government for the benefit of the Hongkong Defence Corps as the Governor may direct.



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All these are sure signs of clogging blood impurity, calling for immediate treatment through the blood, so don't waste your time and money on useless lotions and mess ointments, which cannot get below the surface of the skin. What you want and what you must have is a medicine that will get right to the root of your trouble, a medicine that will thoroughly free the blood of the poisonous matter which alone is the true cause of all your suffering. Clarke's Blood Mixture is just such a medicine. It is composed of ingredients which quickly attack, overcome, and expel from the blood all impurities (from whatever cause arising), and by rendering it clean and pure can be relied on to effect a lasting cure.

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## DOCTORS AND RECRUITS. MUDDLE AND REJECTIONS. INCOMPETENT BOARDS.

Sir Alfred Keogh, Director-General of the Army Medical Service, giving evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons inquiring into the working of the Military Service (Review of Exceptions) Act, said that in the early days of the war, when recruiting enthusiasm was at its height, it was not possible to establish any organized system for medical examination, and local practitioners had to be employed for many battalions. Not until the Derby scheme was any organized system set up. He suggested that as few recruiting centres as possible should be established and that recruits should be examined by medical boards instead of by individual officers, in order that every opportunity should be given for the determination of a man's fitness or unfitness for any class of Army work. Categories A, B, and C were set up and subsequent sub-divisions were adopted for administrative reasons. In peace-time, said Sir Alfred, the determination of the fitness of a recruit is a special branch of Army medical work, and it requires considerable experience. It was not anticipated that the medical boards would at once prove highly efficient from the military point of view. Hence it was decided, as far as possible, to appoint regular officers as presidents of the boards. The medical branch has no relation to the policy of the recruiting officers. All that the medical officers have to do is to report on the physical condition of each man put before them and to put him in a category. "Medicine is not an exact science, like engineering. It is not possible to express in words or figures the opinion of a practitioner. The work involves a knowledge of the daily life of the soldier. For instance, the opinion of a recruiting medical officer would be very much influenced by the fact whether the man was to be a driver in the artillery or a private in the Ordnance Corps. The weight to be allowed for a specific disability depends upon the arm the man is joining."

When war broke out men were recruited in every town and nearly every village, and the recruits were sent to the local practitioner. This man cannot possibly know how much to allow or disallow for certain disabilities. The consequence was that a very large number of men were recruited who in peace-time we should never accept. The errors arose from want of knowledge of the Army and the duties of a soldier. Many of the differences of opinion were quite legitimate. You have also to make allowance for ignorance, for want of skill in detecting disabilities, and for a certain amount of negligence and for fatigue. The very best recruiting medical officer cannot examine more than 40 recruits a day, and that is a big estimate; the work is one of incessant strain.

When he was first, Director-General, Sir Alfred said, he tried to do something to educate the doctors by setting up a common standard, and medical inspectors went round to instruct the inspecting officers. The system was fairly satisfactory, but it by no means got rid of the differences of opinion that existed. Then the system fell into abeyance. When he returned to the War Office, at the end of 1914, he set it up again. When the Derby group system was suggested he saw an opportunity of adopting a more orderly method, and centres were established where men were examined by medical boards.

WRONG DECISIONS. Many men, Sir Alfred admitted, were accepted who ought to have been rejected. A great many were rejected who ought to have been passed. It was difficult to get out of the minds of the doctors that all men were not required to do the same duty in the Army and to get them to understand that any man who could do anything in civil life could do that thing also in the Army.

The Chairman: Has the president any power in excess of the ordinary member of the board? Sir Alfred: I think that if he disagrees with the general finding of the board he will say so.

And the effect of his saying so is what?—The general officer of the Divisional Command would determine what was to be done.

Supposing the four civilian members said "unfit," and the president said "fit"?—He ought to refer the matter to a decision unless it is unanimous—I don't think there is any rule laid down about that.

Mr. Sutton (a Labour member): Why were men rejected three or four times brought up under the new Act and passed, some of them being even accepted for Class A?—Sir Alfred could not say. He had no experience of the actual work of the medical boards.

Can you say why men have been rejected by medical boards, re-examined by medical boards, sent to specialists in the army for reports upon their condition, rejected on the specialists' reports, and then taken in after all that?—I could not.

Mr. Cochrane: Is it possible for a man to be classified by the president alone?—Most emphatically not; it would be quite contrary to the custom of the Service.

Colonel Faber: Men put in the lower categories are only taken for one reason; because they are of use to the Army in some capacity?—Yes; there are no lower categories in peace-time.

"ON THEIR OWN." Replying to Colonel Gretton, Sir Alfred said that if a knotty question arose the General Officer Commanding would write to the War Office for instructions, but normally the generals and the boards "go on their own."

There is no inspection by the War Office of the efficiency of the medical service?—Oh, yes. The Director-General himself inspects from time to time, and at present a very large number of inspectors go round.

What is the arrangement for the removal of unsatisfactory medical officers? A report by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

Answering Mr. Pringle, Sir Alfred said that the standards for the categories now are virtually the same as last year. Mr. Pringle: Would a lowering of the standard be the explanation of the rejection?—I think you will find that the

explanation is the difference of opinion which exists among medical men.

In other words, if you find in a given area a difference of 75 per cent. as between last month's examination and a previous one you would say it was solely due to difference of opinion?—I should not say solely, because I think the men who work on these boards have become more proficient. Whether that proficiency leads to more acceptances or rejections I cannot say. I do not control the actual working of the boards.

Has there been a general instruction as to lowering the standard?—I should say certainly not.

Further answering Mr. Pringle, Sir Alfred described the occasional meeting of deputy directors of medical services at the War Office to discuss the conduct of medical boards. As a result of such meetings letters would be written to general commanding districts calling attention to matters which required looking into, such as "scandals, remarks in newspapers, and so on."

Mr. Pringle: Is it possible for this letter to have been written: "There are too many rejections in this area. Yes, or too few." He promised to produce a letter written as the result of these meetings.

MILL HILL. Mr. Herbert Nield, K.C.: Do you know that at one time the Mill Hill Board was a by-word?—I have seen mention of that in the newspapers.

Regulation 308 says that no man who has at any time been under treatment for tuberculosis shall be taken into the Army. Would you be surprised to know that there are boards which have consistently ignored this? Would you like the names?—I would.

That would be a surprise to you and would indicate gross neglect?—Yes.

Have you heard of such a case as this: A junior medical officer, after examining a man, said to the president of the medical board: "You're up against Sir James Mackenzie here, sir"—meaning that the man had a certificate of unfitness from that specialist to which the president replied: "D— Sir James Mackenzie put him in B 1." That would be a most improper proceeding?—Sir Alfred: To put him into B 1?

Mr. Nield: You would think the remark improper?—Yes. We do not fix standards of fitness for the Army. We interpret them. Take vision, for example, in the case of a man for the artillery. The military people say: "We require the man to do so and so, with or without glasses." They tell us what they want, and we translate it into optical terms.

Do you know of cases of men raised from C 3 to general service within one month?—Very quick. I would have to see the cases to judge whether it was proper.

DEAD IN TWO MONTHS. Mr. Nield called attention to the case of a man who was attended by his doctor for intertrunk ulcers, and in spite of evidence of this was called up, served one day, and was dead in two months.

Sir Alfred Keogh replied that it was "very wrong, but added: I am not here to defend ignorance, carelessness, or want of knowledge on the part of the members of the medical boards. We do not educate them."

If a case of internal ulcer came before the medical board what would you have done?—They ought to send the man into hospital and have him examined by experts. You can't put him into a military hospital until he is passed.

FRUITS AND 1,000,000 ERRORS. Brigadier-General A. Campbell Geddes, Director-General of Recruiting, stated that in August, 1914, the machinery broke down owing to the strain imposed upon it. In one month they received into the Army ten times the number of men for which the recruiting machinery had been designed—in round figures, 500,000.

In the spring of 1915 the first change was made, and it was a very dangerous one, which had led to endless difficulties since. The Army was instructed to begin to discriminate between men who came forward; they were asked to become a thinking machine, a thing they were never intended to be.

Duplication in attestation was a most common affair. Men who registered in London went off somewhere else and did it again. In one sub-area there were 33 or 34 men of the same name—William Smith, the commonest English name—and in Stepney South there were 53 Abraham Cohens, who could be identified only by their addresses. Many addresses were changed after attestation.

FOUNTS AT £15 A TIME. When the Compulsion Act passed and he took over his office, there were one million men in military recruiting records. There was no plan to put them right. In the early part of the attestation period men were given forms marked "Not accepted," which were worth nothing; they changed hands at £15 a time.

"We know now that classification cards in 1916 were forged on a great scale and that false classification cards were actually printed—a regular industry. On taking charge at the War Office I found a small branch of a department dealing with the question. Clerks were scattered about in all parts of the building."

On August 21st they had a plan on which to work, and no fewer than six million entries on the books had since been verified. "I say entries, not men."

The only way they could get at the root of things was to send everybody on the books a calling-up notice and get the men to tell the authorities all about themselves. There was no other way. One mass of the people they had never been able to touch roughly, one million men who had rejected forms in a process of attestation perfection," said General Geddes.

Only 45 R.A.M.C. officers were employed in the 100 odd medical boards throughout the country. The rest were civilians, some with temporary commissions. He thought the actual error in classification was rather under 0.5 (less than 1 of 1) per cent.

"DOPING." It was found there was a good deal of "doping," even men with "bills" running out of their ears.

The total number of men who must be dealt with under the re-examination Act was about a million, and up to June 14th about 420,000 were examined.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## LORD NORTHCOTE TO THE U.S.A.

### BEWARE OF THE CENSORSHIP BLUNDER.

In an informal address at the Players' Club, New York, where he was entertained at luncheon, recently, Lord Northcliffe said:—

I trust that the United States will not make the censorship blunder that England made and which is just becoming an evil of the past. England was kept in the dark for nearly three years. People were blinded by the fatuous optimism of politicians who, while effective in peace, were incompetent in war. People were not permitted to know the truth, and when the truth finally emerged out of costly blunders and sacrifices they were loath to accept it.

I hope America may permit her newspaper and magazine writers to be absolutely frank about what is going on. It is as important for the nation to know the worst as it is for the nation to know the best. For one thing—and we have found from actual experience—it is a great stimulus for the men fighting in the field that the country they are fighting for knows precisely what they are doing.

Every man with a pen in hand and a printing press near by can do patriotic service to his country by awakening the people to the fact that this war is just beginning, and that every ounce of energy, every revolution of America's vast industrial machine, and, what is equally important, every gallon of petrol will be needed to bring the war to a successful end.

It is only by the absolute mobilisation of man power and machine power that the war can be won. Industries that at this moment seem remote from mobilisation for the war will sooner or later be called on to do their part. In Europe, for example, one of the largest corset factories is now turning out very delicate pieces of machinery needed in the construction of aeroplanes.

WORK ON AEROPLANES. The effect of the war on the American magazine, I believe, will be that certain kinds of advertising must necessarily be reduced. I am told in the case of the most widely read periodicals that nearly half the advertising comes from war-equipment companies. The war, which has proved the efficiency of motor transport on an almost incredible degree, will make a tremendous drain on the motor industry of your country. The great bulk of the output will have to be concentrated on trucks. The automobile factories will inevitably be commandeered for the manufacture of aeroplane parts and aeroplane construction generally.

In the aeroplane lies one great hope of an Allied victory. The war has taught that the aeroplane engine of the spring may be almost useless for actual fighting next autumn, so rapidly are developments produced by the fierce competition of war. When America has got her full stride in the war, as surely she will get it, it will be found that there will be a tremendous demand for chauffeurs. England to-day has nearly 100,000 motor trucks in France, and is constantly sending more. Every one of these trucks must be manned by skilled drivers.

Skilled chauffeurs can be sent to operate your trucks; it will be possible to release an equal number of men for the fighting line. It will mean the end of joy riding. England stopped this favourite outdoor sport a good while ago, and I am sure when America wakes up to the tremendous realisation of what this war means she will do likewise.

I have a strong conviction that with peace will come a close federation of the nations who are now fighting the great fighting for freedom. It will be the only insurance against the autocracy that made this war possible and the horrors that the armies of the autocrat perpetrated on innocent non-combatants. The world must be made free for democracy.

MATCH GIRLS' PROTECTOR. MAN WHO ENDED "PHOSSY JAW."

A revolution in the matchmaking trade, saving the lives of endless girl workers all over the world, lies behind the knight-hood conferred on Sir Alexander H. Maguire of Liverpool.

Sir Alexander has been in the match trade all his life. The father, in fact, was the inspirer of the mission which the son successfully took up. From his father Sir Alexander learned the ravages of the poisonous white phosphorus, then the main chemical ingredient in the match.

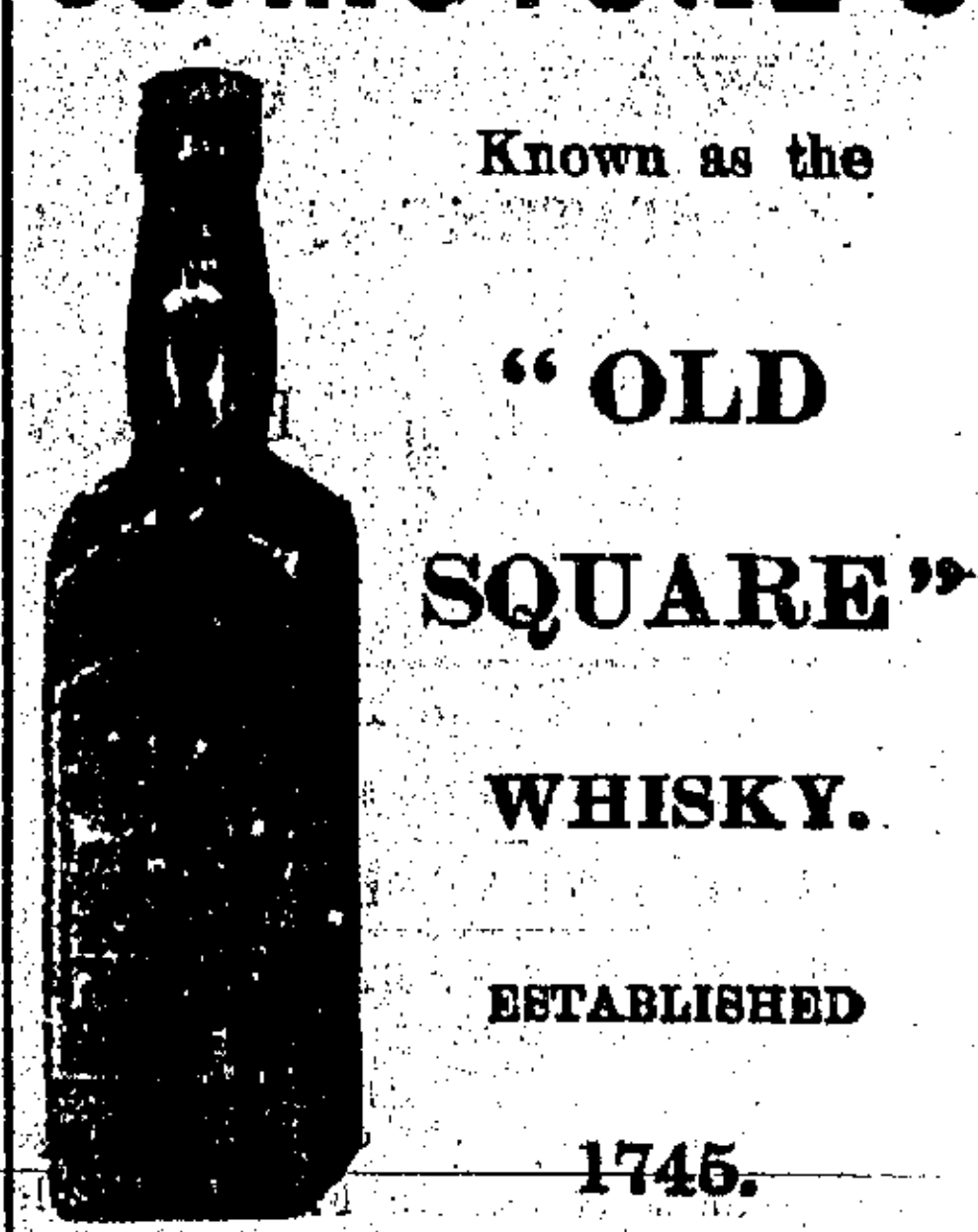
The match worker—usually a girl—got into contact with the phosphorus through her hands and sometimes through her mouth. If there were any exposed spot in the teeth the poison began to work. First a tooth went, then one of the jaw bones got infected, then the rest of the jaw bones. The teeth having first gone, one of the jaw bones was taken out, then another, and sometimes, the disease having gone too far, all were taken out to try to save the patient. But the sufferer nearly always died.

Sir Alexander got the consent of his fellow match manufacturers to legislation to prevent the use of white phosphorus. Then, after getting the support of the leaders of all the other political parties, he induced the Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert, now Lord Gladstone, to bring in the White Phosphorus Match Prohibition Bill. Though it excited some opposition the Bill passed into law. The good example soon spread, and now legislation against the use of white phosphorus is practically world-wide, and the toll of death and painful disease has ended. In silence the revolution came, in silence it has remained since, though thousands of workers are now enjoying the benefits of it.

He would personally honour a certificate given by a medical man who had attended a man for some time, but could place no credence on the word of a casual specialist called in at the last minute.

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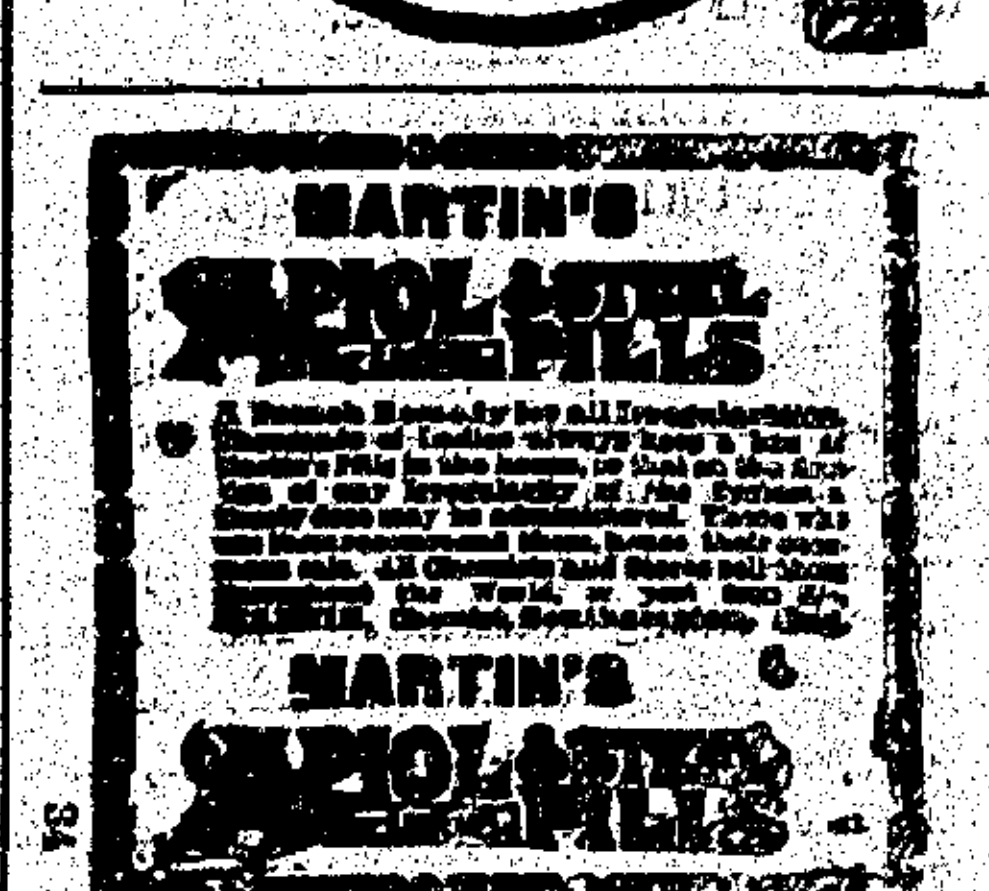


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**CURE OF FHLL-SHOCK.**  
**SIR J. COLLIE'S SCHEME.**

[illegible]

An authority on naval construction expressed the belief that vessels of the type mentioned can be built and navigated across the Atlantic without the slightest risk. He also said that several new inventions which can be incorporated in the large cargo-carrying submersibles have lately been patented.

The King awarded the Albert Medal of the first Class in recognition of gallantry to Rifle Corporal Charles Henry Anderson of the 1/4th Battalion of the London Regiment, who sacrificed his life to save his comrades in France in November last.

Twelve men were in a hut when the safety pin of a bomb was accidentally withdrawn. In the semi-darkness Anderson shouted a warning to the men, rushed to the door, and endeavoured to open it so as to throw the bomb into a field. Failing to do this, when he judged that the five seconds during which the fuse was timed to burn had elapsed, he held the bomb as close to his body as possible with both hands in order to screen the other men in the hut.

Anderson and one other man were mortally wounded by the explosion, and five men were injured, but the remaining five escaped unhurt.

conquest are the small group of industrial capitalists and the hot-headed Pan-Germanists, who get no sympathy from the masses of the people, but only from the university professors, the office-holders, and the well-to-do middle classes. Herr Schiemann (a well-known Socialist) was actually called to order when he spoke the words 'revolution' in a 'speech in the Reichstag.' And yet he did nothing but repeat a word which is heard daily among the masses of the people. It is true that he rightly added, 'We have not yet reached the point of revolution.' But it would be childish to deceive ourselves into thinking that we may not reach it if the men who hold in their hands the destiny of the German Empire are not big enough to assume the responsibility of their mistakes and wise enough to recognize and take account of the necessities of the present time.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

As the *Journal de Genève* says, these are grave words. They constitute one of many increasing indications that the German people are beginning to recognize that they are fighting, not a war of defence for their homes, but a war of conquest for an ambitious autocracy.







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SHANGHAI KOBE and YOKOHAMA	KITANO MARU	SUNDAY, 2nd Sept., at 11 A.M.
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SHANGHAI KOBE and YOKOHAMA	HIRANO MARU	SATURDAY, 16th Sept., at 11 A.M.
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SHANGHAI KOBE and YOKOHAMA	SHUSHI MARU	SATURDAY, 15th Sept., at 11 A.M.
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TAISHO MARU	MONDAY, 20th Aug.
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ASAHI MARU	WEDNESDAY, 22nd Aug.
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# O. S. K.

## OSAKA SHOSHEN KAISHA.

REGULAR SERVICES, PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG (SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

North American Line. FOR VICTORIA, SEATTLE AND TACOMA, VIA SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE, AND YOKOHAMA (TRANS-PACIFIC).

"CHICAGO MARU"	... ..	TUESDAY,	23rd Aug., at 3 P.M.
"MEXICO MARU"	... ..	FRIDAY,	14th Sept., at Noon.
"HAWAII MARU"	... ..	WEDNESDAY,	26th Sept., at Noon.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connections are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Mauritius, Darban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, sailing Auckland, N. Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintain cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Cebu and Macassar. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Amoy, via Swatow and Amoy.

"AMAKUSA MARU"	... ..	MONDAY,	24th Aug., at Noon.
"JOSHIN MARU"	... ..	FRIDAY,	24th Aug., at 10 A.M.
"KALJO MARU"	... ..	SUNDAY,	26th Aug., at Noon.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 76 will be used.

For FURTHER INFORMATION apply to—  
M. HIGUCHI, Manager,  
No. 1, Queen's Building.

TEL. Nos 744 and 745

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